One small complaint is the occasional reference to image plates that are not in the book. These plates would have enhanced the understanding of the information presented. This book is recommended for those interested in the Cambrian age, evolution, the development of vision, and body structural colors in insects and aquatic life.—*Lee Luckeydoo, Botanical Research Institute of Texas, 509 Pecan Street, Fort Worth, TX 76102-4060, U.S.A.*

Grape Man of Texas

Sherrie S. McLeRoy and Roy E. Renfro, Jr. 2004. **Grape Man of Texas: The Life of T.V. Munson.** (ISBN 1-57168-819-6, hbk.) Eakin Press, P.O. Drawer 90159, Austin, Texas 78709-0159, U.S.A. (Orders: 512-288-1771; 800-880-8642; 512-288-1813 fax; Service and Sales: sales@eakinpress.com). $39.95, 296 pp., color and b/w figures, 7" × 10".

Grape Man of Texas: The Life of T.V. Munson is the first biography written about this eminent Texas horticulturist. He became one of the leading experts in native American grape species, and his studies were instrumental in saving the European grape and wine industry from disaster in the late nineteenth century. Munson developed over 300 new grapes but is perhaps best known for his efforts in fighting the phylloxera epidemic of the late 19th century, for which he received the Chevalier du Merite Agricole and inducted into the French Legion of Honor. He was also a leader in the viniculture movement of the period for his cutting-edge work in breeding new grape and plant varieties. His articles, experiments, correspondence, speeches, exhibits, grape classifications, and numerous inventions reveal his scientific thirst for knowledge and his wide-ranging interests.

Over 100 years ago Cognac, France and Denison, Texas shared two of it's citizens with the world to solve a major destructive force—the grapevine destroyer, phylloxera. It was 1880 and the phylloxera plague was rampant in France, especially in the Charante Region where Cognac is located. The phylloxera root louse was destroying the prestigious French winegrapes and therefore, destroying the economy of France. France assigned the preeminent French scientist, Pierre Viala the task of finding a cure for the phylloxera plague. This investigation brought him to the United States and to the home of Thomas Volney Munson in Denison, Texas. The two scientists collaborated on the problem for several days in Denison and various other locations in Texas to view the native grapes of Texas in their natural habitat. The soils of the Charante, in France, and Denison are very similar and therefore should support grape species capable of growing in either location. T.V. Munson suggested that the only way to save the French vineyards was to graft the *Vitis vinifera* varieties to resistant rootstocks. Munson knew that the Texas rootstocks were resistant to phylloxera and at his suggestion, Pierre Viala agreed that it was a good plan of action. Thousands of bundles of Texas rootstocks were shipped to France where Pierre Viala and other French scientists started educating the French winegrowers on the enormous grafting tasks that lay ahead. The grafting literally continues to this day.

For his monumental contributions to France, T.V. Munson was awarded the highest award that could be given a foreign civilian, the Chevalier du Merite Agricole and was inducted into the Legion of Honor in 1888. In 1898 he was elected as a foreign corresponding member of the Societe Nationale d'Agriculture de France and as an honorary member in the Societe des Viticulteurs de France. Several statues honoring Munson have been erected in France.

Nearly 300 pages long, the *Grape Man of Texas* includes more than 100 illustrations, many never before published; the first listing compiled since Munson's death of his 300+ grape hybrids and their parentages; a list of his wild grape discoveries, several of which remain important in modern viticulture and research; and a list of all of Munson's known speeches and publications.

Released in June 2004, *Grape Man of Texas* soon received its first international accolade when it was awarded a prestigious three stars from the Gourmand World Cookbook Awards, which recognize the finest in international food and wine books. The organization inaugurated the rating system this summer to rank the 4,000-plus books entered each year in its "Best in the World" competition. Gourmand defines these 3-star books as "masterpieces—buy and read immediately." *Grape Man*, the Gourmand press release states, is "a very important book for wine history." It is one of only four American books and 19 worldwide to be honored on the inaugural list.

The book was co-written by award-winning Texas author and historian Sherrie S. McLeRoy and by Dr. Roy E. Renfro, Jr., director of the T.V. Munson Viticulture and Enology Center in Denison, Texas.—*Gary L. Jennings, Librarian, Botanical Research Institute of Texas, Fort Worth, TX 76102-4060, U.S.A.*

Preservation of the Big Thicket

James J. Cozine, Jr. 2004. **Saving the Big Thicket: From Exploration to Preservation, 1685–2003.** (ISBN 1-57441-175-6, hbk.). University of North Texas Press, P.O. Box 311336, Denton, TX 76203-1336, U.S.A. (Orders: 1-800-826-8911, 940-565-4590 fax, rchrisman@unt.edu, www.unt.edu/untpress). $34.95, 272 pp, 5 maps, 25 illustrations, 6" × 9".

Saving the Big Thicket: From Exploration to Preservation, 1685-2003 is the fourth in the Temple Big Thicket Series published by University of North Texas Press. Originally written by Cozine in 1976 as part of a dissertation literature entitled *Assault on a Wilderness*, the work has been updated to the present time and now includes a foreword and afterword by Pete A.Y. Gunter, author of another book in this series, *The Big Thicket: An Ecological Reevaluation*. *Saving the Big Thicket* is an account of the regional history and "play-by-play" of the political fight for the Big Thicket National Preserve (BTNP) with the afterword by Gunter detailing the more recent issues in the area since Cozine's original 1976 manuscript was published.

The foreword by Gunter describes the work of the author and his involvement and perseverance on this work, presents a general construction of the book and provides some insight into the process of constructing an overview of a region with such a long and complicated history. Introductory material gives a brief description of the units that make up the preserve, general ecosystems and plant diversity found in each, along with information about the creation of the units, trails and structures. Two maps from Cozine's original work accompany this first section. Cozine divides the history of the region into six time periods of human involvement: early Native American use, French and Spanish arrival and attempted settlement, the coming of early American backwoods settlers, initiation of logging railroads (for large-scale timbering) and oil exploration, the beginning of an early conservation movement and finally the formation of the second Big Thicket Association and creation of BTNP. Each section provides great detail and historical information on the people, organizations and industries that became involved with the land, how they used it, settled it (or attempted to), helped destroy it and eventually helped save it. The first few chapters involve pre-industry human effects on the Big Thicket, outlining the Native American tribes that lived in the area leaving a minimal impact, the arrival of the Spanish and French explorers that interacted with the Native American tribes, and finally the greater impact of backwoodsmen, escaped slaves, criminals and hunters seeking refuge in the Big Thicket. The following chapters address the arrival of timber railways, oil exploration and the incredible environmental damage to the region that came with them,